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CRISIS 2
OF ¹⁶⁹⁸ S-----, Sir R
HONESTY. N

BEING

An ANSWER to the
Crisis of PROPERTY.

In a LETTER to Sir R----- S-----.

*To fit Him for what they design'd to have Him,
Every Gift but HONESTY they gave Him :
And now He's grac'd with unexpected Honours,
For which He'll certainly abuse the Donors :
Knighted, and made a Tribune of the People ;
Whose Laws and Properties He's like to keep well.*

True-born Englishman.

L O N D O N :

Printed for A. Moore, near St. Paul's.
1720. Price 6 d.

THE
CRISIS
OF
HONESTY.
BEING

An ANSWER to the
Cries of PROPERTY.



In a LETTER

To the Hon. for what they desired to have
done. Give me HONESTY that you think
And now the great I wish myself to be honest
For which He'll certainly make the Donors
Known, and I shall be a Tribune of the People;
Who's name and promises He's like to keep well.
This poem is significant.

L O N D O N :

Printed for A. Blount, near St. Paul's Church.
1722. Price 5s.

Upon **Mr. STEELE's** *Incomparable*
|| Elegy on the Death of Queen MARY.
Publsh'd Eighteen Years after it was
written.

MART the Wife, the Pious, and the Just
 Some Eighteen Years ago was laid in Dust;
 The Bards, who ever have their Harps in Tune,
 Sung each her *Elegy*, and sung it soon.

But honest DICK, who was not then a Wit,
 And only whisper'd to a Friend, he ——— writ,
 Resolv'd the common Road of Fame to shun,
 And shew his Sorrow when the rest had done;
 O! what a *Pleasure* 'tis to cry alone!

DICK was a Critick, and had somewhere read
 The Recipe for Wit that HORACE made;
 * *Poet, for Nine Tears keep your Verse with Care;*
Lock'd in your Study close, for fear of Air:
Maturing thus, it will by Time acquire
Fancy and Spirit, Energy and Fire.

So in *Devonia's* Cliff the *Swallow* lies,
 By Sleep defended from the Wintry Skies;

|| See Mr. Steele's *Miscellany*.

* Nonumque prematur in Annum. *Hor. Art. Poet.*
 Improv'd

Improv'd by Sloth, and happy Quiet there,
She wings more lightly thro' the Liquid Air.

These Things consider'd well, thinks DICK, if Nine
Will make the Poet, and his Works divine,
What will Nine more perform? My gentle Rhime,
Whatever it wants in Wit shall have in Time.
Thus long suppress'd, the Poem comes at last,
Like tainted Mutton kept too long for Taste;
Full of such fine Conceits as erst have hung
Upon the Milk-Maid's, or the Bell-Man's Tongue.
O DICK! so much extoll'd, so much cry'd down,
Now thou art kind unto the doubtful Town;
What *thy self* wrote, thou boldly shewest us here,
And we absolve thy Friends from any Share;
Tho' *now* upon *adapted* Growths you thrive,
You flourish'd like *your self* in Ninety-Five.

The Bard, who ever have their Haps in Tune,
Sung each her Ecly, and sung it soon.

But honest DICK, who was not then a Wit,
And only whilper'd to a Friend, he ——— wrote.

Relov'd the common Road of Fame to shun,
And shew his sorrow when the self had done;

O! what a pleasure 'tis to cry alone!
DICK was a Critick, and had somewhere read

The Recipe for Wit, ——— made;
* Foot, for Nine Times Nine, wrote with Care;

Look'd in your Study close, ——— of Air;
Musing thus, it will by Time acquire

Energy and Spirit, Energy and Wit.
So in Bevoise's Cliff the Swallow lies,

By Sleep descended from the Wherry Skies;

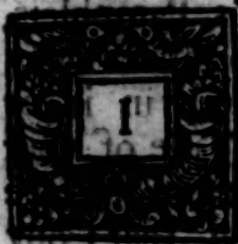


LETTER

TO

Sir R-----d. S-----le.

STR,



IN the Treaty of Property lately published, which you have introduc'd without a Preface, being in great haste, you immediately fall upon an honourable Gentleman, who has taken great Pains about the Publick Funds, and understands them as well as any Gentleman in England. You give the World to understand that you differ from him; he is for paying Debts, and you are not. This Piece of News you might have spared for your own Sake; and the Pains this Gentleman has taken

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in his Calculations, is obvious enough to every Body that has the Sense to understand them, which I'm sure you cannot, tho' you have taken it into your Head to answer them. In an *Englishman* it would have been more than Assurance; but it happens to be your Way, to find fault with what you are so far from understanding, that I am convinc'd you cannot read the Figures, without great Difficulty, that are in this Gentleman's Scheme. You say, *If the Honourable House of C — s, whereof this Gentleman is a Member, were of his Opinion, and should act accordingly, farewell the Wealth and Honour of Great Britain.* This is treating a Gentleman and a Member pretty Cavalierly, but not worse than in some Pages after, you seem to treat the whole House of C — s, of which you are as yet a Member.

When the Legislature, have under their Consideration, so great a Work as this, of disengaging the Publick, by discharging so great a Load of Debt, one would think, such an Undertaking should not be embarrass'd and obstructed, by Speeches or Libellous Pamphlets, or the Undertakers of it oblig'd to answer every idle Scribbler, who has no Concern in it, or Knowledge of it. And tho' the Title of your Book may answer your Expectation in the Sale of it, indeed I am sorry to tell you, that Copy Money is a poor Reward for the Time you lose in writing of publick Debts, and publick Credit; that Time would certainly be better spent in thinking of your own neglected Affairs, by which means you might possibly retrieve that Credit which most concerns you, and which, I fear is in a drooping Condition.

What

What you say in P. 7. *that the Borrower is a Servant to the Lender*, it cannot be the general Notion of Mankind. And tho' you are so courteous to Mankind in general as to believe they think as you do, I must tell you they do not; Experience shews the contrary every Day; and this must be only your own Notion, perhaps from what may have been your own Case. I know but of two Things that can make a Borrower thus obsequious to a Lender; one is when a Borrower is in extreme Want of Money, and is not able to give a sufficient Security; as for Example, the Borrower's Estate may be only for Life, his Places may be precarious, and those already mortgag'd to other People; in this Case the Borrower has been known to appear as an humble Servant, a Jester, or a Buffoon, and has put himself into various Shapes to touch (as they call it) the well-natur'd Lender's Money; for you are to understand this humble Borrower to be not only a Man of Wit but also a Man of Honour, and does not care to Rob a Stranger on the Highway, but chuses rather to take what Money he wants from his Friends and Acquaintance. The Money being thus got, and the time of repaying being laps'd, the Borrower is once more the Lender's Servant, being now in his Power, and therefore with all Humility applies himself to the Lender for further Time. Some Borrowers indeed accost their Creditors with what they call a Frankness, but those are a Sort of People I do not think proper to mention much off, being for the most part Foreigners; these I take to be generally the Reasons of Servitude from a Borrower to a Lender.

You, and I, both know a Man that can shew this first Instance of Servitude to Perfection. The second Instance of the Borrower's Humility is generally the Token of an honest and grateful Mind, which one seldom meets with among those kind of Servants. But rather as many Kinds of Ingratitude as the borrowing Servant can think of, such as diverting publick (and often mean) Company with the Lender's Imperfections, exposing his Infirmities, and shewing the kind Lender in a ridiculous Light. If the Lender has been in a publick Station, the ungrateful Servant has been known, not only to oppose his Credulous Master, but also to Defame and Libel him, without ever offering to repay the Money that his Humility formerly had obtained, at a time when he had no other Friend that would preserve his Carcase from a Goal.

Having thus shewn you how the Case stands on your Side of the Question, I will endeavour to shew you how the Lender may become a Suitor to the Borrower. How many People are there, who would to-morrow sell out of the Funds, if they could have Land Security at Five *per Cent.* rather than stand the sudden Rises and Falls of Stock? And it is very well known, that any Sum of Money may be had upon a good Mortgage or other good Security, at One *per Cent.* under the Current Interest, provided the Person who borrows it will oblige himself to keep it so for three Years. If a Man can give Security, and is an honest Man, he may have Money for his honest Occasions, without making a Servant or a Monkey of himself. The Value of Money to those that have it, is in employing it; I mean such as are not brought up

to Trades, they must let it out at Interest; and are very happy to meet with good Security, and an honest Paymaster.

And you may be assur'd, that whenever a Lender obliges a Borrower to hard Terms, it is either because he can make no good Security, or that he has the Character of a dishonest Man, and a bad Paymaster. This you know to be true.

Therefore when Men rail against the Cruelty of Creditors, and the Severity of Magistrates, you know it depends upon every Man's own Conduct, for the most part, whether he makes himself liable to either. Which brings to my mind what I have once heard you answer to a Censorious Old Man, who was complaining of the Badness of the Times; I remember you tuck'd up your Face, and told the Gentleman, *That if every body would mend one, he might soon see the Times mended to his Liking.*

In the next Place, you take into your Consideration the Nature of Power; how it is, and how it ought to be exerted amongst Men. This, I suppose, you mean by way of Direction to the Legislature, in the Affair of the Publick Debts now before them. By the Person or Persons that you appoint to exercise this Power, and by making their Judgment decisive, you must mean the Legislature. According to your wonted Wisdom and Frankness, you advise 'em to be *Honest, Just and Reasonable; and to walk by the Rules of Honesty, good Sense, and Justice*: Those, we suppose, being the Rules you have always walk'd by. But should they not do

do this to your Liking, and should dare to judge Things just and equitable, contrary to your Opinion; you tell us, *Such Judgment will be unrighteous. Tho' never so great a Crowd, tho' never so Solemn and Awful an Assembly should determine against you; their Judgment would be but a vain Sanction of their Formalities.*

This is pretty Language from a common Scribbler to a High Court of P---r---t. Allow me to tell you, That if you had said so much to any other Society of Men in England, you had certainly forfeited your Place among them, and that with as much Contempt and Infamy as such a Crime deserves.

In the next Paragraph, you have another Fling at Mr. H---n, and tell us what must be the Grounds of a Suitor's Complaint in a Court of Equity. You do not remain long with Equity and good Conscience, but apply your self again to the Legislature; and when you have told us their Superiority and Power over the Subjects, you that are a Subject go on to tell us, That the Contractors of this great Debt, which the Nation now stands engag'd for, *were credited just like Senators and wise Legislators.*

But when you come to the present Senators and Legislators, who are about to pay those Debts, and redeem the Nation; you take the Liberty to say, That *they are about redeeming themselves, like circumvented Bubbles, and foolish Children.*

Unless

Unless they are very fond of your Face, this (I think) would be sufficient to remove you into some other Place of Sanctuary. If this Language passes uncorrected, the World will soon come to have the same Contempt for as you have shewn; and they will soon find themselves us'd with the same Freedom as you have us'd them.

I will not say how worthy you render your self upon other Occasions of your Place among them; but I can think it no Addition to your Merit, when the Great Council of the Nation are Deliberating upon a Point, whereon the Freedom and Welfare of the Nation absolutely depends; that you should at such a Time, as far as you have any Credit, irritate the People against their Proceedings, by Libelling particular M - - -ers, and both by Speaking and Writing, inflame the People against their Representatives, for the greatest Piece of Publick Service that any P - - - - -t ever undertook.

If it were possible to imagine that you could understand any Thing of the Business in Hand, would it not better become you to give your Assistance in your proper Place? But it is plain, that there you have no Credit, nor Power, but that of exposing your self. And when you find Gentlemen only diverted with your idle Proposals, you take it into your Head to instruct the whole Body of the Legislature by Threepenny Pieces; and in them you abuse whom you please, generally by the borrow'd Names of an injur'd Knight, or that of Sir *John Edgar*.

Surely

Surely you must have a great Inclination to Borrowing, when your Credit is at a stand, to borrow Names; or must be conscious to your self that you have done something remarkably heinous in your Life-time, that you dare not venture to put the same Name to your *Lucubrations*, that you daily put to all Notes, Bonds, Judgments and Statutes.

If you had any Candour, you would have understood Mr. H-----'s Scheme as you have publish'd it to the World. No honest Man that reads him, and understands him, can believe that he has the least Design of Destroying Parliamentary Credit, or of Injuring the Annuitants, by bringing them to Account as in a Court of *Chancery*: And that he only design'd to shew, how large an Interest the Annuitants have had for their Money for Four or Five and twenty Years past. And that after all this, it would be no great Hardship upon the Annuitants at this Time of Day, to have double the Money they originally gave for their Annuities. Besides, how very few are there of the Original Adventurers in those Annuities, who are now possess'd of them? They have from Time to Time been alienated, for valuable Considerations, according to the Market Price. And shall those Annuities so alienated, be now deem'd so sacred, as to be left in the Hands of Stock-jobbers? Shall those People be at Liberty to buy and sell those Annuities, and by that means be able to prevent the Publick from Redeeming it self? Shall any Man, or any Society of Men, have it in their Power to do

do this ; and shall the Legislature be deny'd it, for the Benefit and Redemption of the whole Nation ?

It is plain, as the Case now stands, that unless some Method be taken for Discharging the Publick Debts, the People will not only think the great Taxes tedious to the Expiration of those Terms, but will also think themselves very unhappy, to see every other Nation out of Debt, able to magnify their Force, and to undertake great Things, while we continue in a Road of ill Oeconomy, to gratify idle Projectors ; and (this Debt still continuing) shall not be able to raise Money for our own Defence, without falling upon the Funds in a worse manner than that of Paying 'em, as is now propos'd.

There are in *England* various Properties equally secure with this ; and yet we daily see the Legislature breaking in upon them, and giving the Possessors valuable Considerations ; as in the Case of making Rivers Navigable, Publick Roads, Erecting of Forts, and other Publick Edifices, and several other Things ; and yet it was never thought the least Hardship to do those Things upon such Terms, when only the Interest of one particular Province requir'd it. Surely then, when the Welfare and Security of the whole Nation is depending, and all is at Stake, it is very hard, that this Nation should be in a worse Condition than any private Man : That it shall not redeem it self while it is yet

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able,

able, in order to be upon a Foot with Neighbouring Nations; but must, in Compliment to Stockjobbers, wrong-headed Projectors, and evil Oeconomists, continue under this immense Load of Debts and heavy Taxes, which, prudently manag'd, would discharge the Debts, and consequently ease the Publick of those Taxes in a few Years.

It is very odd, that there should be any Sort of Property that should not only be free from Contributions towards the Support of the Community, but that it should be so circumstanc'd as to be destructive to it, by forcing the Nation to remain in Debt and Misery for Ages to come. If these are your Schemes, if these are your Projects, I hope rather to see you a wealthy Fishmonger, than that you should have any Share in Publick Managements; except that of Governing those imaginary Kings and Queens, and other Vagabonds, in your late Dominion at the Play-House in Drury-Lane.

As for what you say of *Insurers of Ships*, and the Comparison you make between them and the *Annuityants*; you have not been long enough in Trade to know the Nature of an Insurance, but are as much a Stranger to that as to the Lending of Money.

How you come to call People Insurers that lend Money upon extravagant Interest, (which they have duly paid 'em, and are now offer'd their Principal double;) I know not. This must be a Thing entirely your own; and what no less Genius than yours can find out.

You

You say, the Annuitants are not *Usurers* nor *Extortioners*; I wish they may not appear to be so. I believe, as you say, that many among them are good Citizens, but few Patriots, not even in your own way.

You tell us, *They lent their Money, because they lov'd their Country.* Methinks if that were the Motive, they might have lent it at an easier Rate. Or since they have receiv'd already much more by way of Interest than what they lent; sure the same Love of their Country might now induce them to receive their own again double.

You say, *They stepp'd out of the Ranks, as the forlorn Hope of Property, in Defence of the Lands of England, and its Owners.* ---

You must know, it is a great Fault for Men to step out of the Ranks; and you would as a Soldier have been convinc'd of it, but that you are a Stranger to all good Discipline.

The true State of this forlorn Hope is, That they having Money to command, took Advantage of the Necessities of the Government, when their native Country was in imminent Danger, and falling under a Lawless and Arbitrary Power. They lent their Money at a greater Advantage than they could make of it in Trade, or otherways: And from that Day to this, have shar'd all Benefits, without contributing one Farthing to the Defence of the Land of England, and the Owners of it; while these Owners have paid near Thirty Years Purchase in Taxes for their own Estates,

towards the Interest due to those generous Lenders : Besides which, the industrious Trader is loaded with Multitudes of Taxes ; and this generous, forlorn Hope, or *Insurers*, as you call 'em, have enrich'd themselves by devouring their native Country ; and are not yet content, unless they shall ruin their Country past Redemption.

What you mention concerning the *Loan* to the *Emperor*, seems to be little to your Purpose. The Lenders are not subject to his *Imperial Majesty* ; or if they were, I doubt they would be oblig'd to contribute towards his Expences in another manner. I believe there are but few People concern'd in that Loan, who would not have been willing to receive their Money again. They would hardly say, that there were not such Advantages to be made of Money in *England* as formerly : And as the *Emperor* borrow'd it for his Convenience, that it would be a Breach of Faith to repay it when He was able. They would be willing to receive their Money when it was offer'd them.

There are none of your generous Lenders that are dispos'd to distress any Country but their own ; but they ought to take care that they do not carry the Jest too far : Augmenting the Load, will not be Improving their Security.

There are some wise Men, who once thought the Publick Debts too great to be paid. It ought to be a great Satisfaction to all honest Men, that there is a Likelihood of Pay-
ing

ing such a Debt, and setting the Nation free. And whatever you may now think of it, you once had Virtue enough to think but very indifferently of those who were only suspected to be against Paying the Publick Debts.

I'm glad to find you (in Page the 19th) question whether you talk *reasonably*? Indeed you do very unreasonably, when you abuse your Betters, and call Paying of Debts, Losing the Nation; and in an artful (tho' infamous) manner, go about to raise groundless Fears and Jealousies in the Minds of his Majesty's Subjects; and do in a manner suggest, That the redeeming the Annuities would be follow'd with a Stoppage of the Equivalent due to Scotland.

How you have brought in the Equivalent and the *English* Grants, or for what Purpose, I cannot conceive. But I understand you have no great Fondness for the Possessors of those Grants; and I believe, could you have them revok'd, it's possible you would be glad to have some of them, as a Reward for your notorious Goose-quill Services.

We come at length to that plain word CREDIT; a word that carries with it every Thing that is valuable amongst Men; a Thing that has Conveniency, Safety, Pomp, Glory, and all the Distinctions of Life wrapp'd up in it. A most amiable Thing! And what a Misfortune must it be for a Man to out-live it? Where this is lost, the Landed Man will be impoverish'd, the Soldier disarm'd, and the Trader beggar'd,

I am

I am sorry to say, that this is too true in these Three different Instances of your self, as a Soldier, a Landed Man, and a Trader. I firmly believe, that no Man living can give a better Account of the Misfortune attending the Loss of Credit than you can. But you were not lamenting your own Loss and Misfortune; but by this Paragraph, you would fain persuade your Fellow-Subjects to believe, that what the Legislature are now about doing, will destroy the Publick Credit: And either from your want of Knowledge of what may be the true Interest of your Country, or from as much Wickedness as ever possess'd any one Man living, you would insinuate, That Paying the Publick Debt, is Violating the Publick Faith: And the Consequence of that will be, Impoverishing the Landed Man, Disarming the Soldier, and Beggaring the Merchant. By this means, you alarm the Gentleman, the Soldier, and the Merchant; and endeavour to possess them, that all that is valuable amongst Men will be lost and destroy'd, if those Three Conditions of Men do not stand up to preserve it.

There are Two very remarkable Things in your next Paragraph, *Pag. 22.* The first is a frank Acknowledgment of your Weakness and Vanity, in opposing such Great, Learned, and Powerful Adversaries on the present Subject. You own, that you are but a Novice in such weighty Affairs as these are; and by no means capable of contending with Persons who have made the Consideration of them their Business.

ness. Now, is it possible that a Man, after so ingenuous a Confession as this is, would ever more have the Assurance, or be so abandon'd, as to open his Mouth on the same Subject again? But you cannot help it; It's owing to your Modesty: An Instance of which the same Paragraph affords us; where you say, That Mr. H——n, Your self, and *Marcus Tullius Cicero*, are Three Great Men; and I dare say, you believe your self by much the greatest of the Three.

You quote a Paragraph out of *Tully's Offices*; which, you say, if you had never read, you had at this Hour been what they call a *Plumb*. This is a wonderful Thing! But I fear, you can forget, or remember, as it best suits your Purpose.

You mention two of *Cicero's* Arguments, the first is, that no Advantage imaginable can be equivalent for the Loss of Credit; the other is, that what is dishonourable cannot be gainful. What a Pity it is that you could not always have had these two short Sentences in your Mind; the Remembrance and the Observance of them would have made you much greater than ever I shall live to see you, tho' your Fishery and other Projects should succeed.

Your Quotation out of *Tully* is as follows:
 " If, says he, Money is gotten without regard
 " to the means of doing it, the Publick will
 " find themselves in the End no Gainers; for
 " nothing can be Profit that's purchas'd with
 " Infamy. What then shall we say of the
 " Project of *Lucius Philippus*, who mov'd
 " in

“ in the Senate, that those Cities, who had
 “ bought *Roman* Liberty from *Sylla*, shou’d
 “ still be tributary without returning them
 “ their Money with which they had purchas’d
 “ it? The Senate, to the Shame of all Govern-
 “ ment, consented to the Expedient; the na-
 “ tural Consequence of which was, that they
 “ lost their Credit; and the Faith of Pyrates
 “ was from that Moment more to be depend-
 “ ed on, than that of the Senate of *Rome*.

This Story, I suppose, you design out of
 your good Nature, and Honesty, to apply to
 the Point in Hand concerning the Annuitants.
 Who you would distinguish by the Name of
Lucius Philippus, I know not; but from his
 first moving the Project, we will suppose that
 you intend this Compliment to some modern
 Senator of Distinction; I’m loth to say who,
 lest I should misplace your Favours. My Af-
 fair is to observe the Justice of your Quota-
 tion and Comparifon. Those Cities that had
 bought *Roman* Liberty from *Sylla*, were again
 made Tributary, without returning them their
 Money; the Consequence of which was, that
 the *Roman* Senate lost their Credit from that
 Moment; and the Faith of Pyrates was to be
 depended upon more than theirs. So the P — t,
 being about to lessen the publick Debts, and
 to redeem the Nation, intending to offer the
 Annuitants not only their own Money again,
 but thrice as much, after having for a long
 time paid them an extravagant Interest; which
 if the P — t do accomplish, they will
 from that Moment lose their Credit, and the
 Faith of Pyrates will be more to be depend-
 ed

ed on than theirs. This, as near as I can guess, is the true Intent and Meaning of your Quotation, and your Reason for quoting of it ; and I must believe it to be so, because you say all this. You argue against the Remarks of your worthy Fellow-Labourer Mr. *H — n*, who aims at the same End with you, but it is by different Means ; that is, He and the Majority of the House of *C — ns*, are for following the *Roman* Senate as above. But you a little after say, that you for your part, with great Deference to Mr. *H — n* and others, will be guided by Reason and Justice. And if the House of *C — ns* happen to be in the same way of thinking with Mr. *H — n*, in the Case of the Annuities, they know what they are to expect from you, you having deliver'd your Opinion of them already with much Frankness ; and whenever that Affair shall come upon the Carpet, you have done and said so much for Mr. *H — n*, and the whole House, that I do not know how he or they will be able to requite you.

As for the Annuitants, I shall not call them Usurers or Extortioners, Insurers, or Patriots ; but I believe many of them to be good Citizens and Money Lenders, whose chief Inducement to lend their Money was not the Love of their Country, but that of their own private Families. And I conceive that very few of them, who are not Stockjobbers, will think themselves at all aggriev'd, when they consider how punctually their Interest has been paid hitherto ; and with what Improvement their Money is now offer'd them, and

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that

that they are paid off merely to save their Country from Ruin. I believe People will not be for spinning this Thread too fine, but will be content with honest and great Gain. I dare say, that in the late Reign there was not one among them that would not have been content with much less than is now offer'd them, especially when they were told that the Landed Men would no longer carry them on their Backs; when a great Man, who is now living (though I am sorry to say that he does live) was in that time exhorting People concern'd in the Funds, to come into certain Measures. He said it very much behov'd Money'd Men to join the Court, for we were now come to have Landed P——ts. And if they who had Money in the Government did not conform, every body knew how the Money those People lent had been apply'd; and that the Landed Interest had a way of Paying the Debts with a short Bill, whenever they pleas'd. What Man then would have been so mad, as to refuse receiving his Money, if the Government had offer'd it to him? And shall People be hearken'd unto now, that are for Plunging all the Land of *England* into Debt and Ruin past Redemption?

I wish you would call the Annuitants either Lenders, or Purchasers. If they are Lenders, it implies they are to be paid: And the Legislature are, and must be proper Judges, whether it be not for the Interest and Benefit of the Publick that they be now paid.
And

And no doubt but that they will take due Care in Repaying those Lenders, to make them an ample Satisfaction, and to allow them a large and an honest Profit.

If you will look upon them as Purchasers, I have already told you, that there can be no Sort of Property in *England*, but the Legislature may take and employ for the Benefit of the Community; as they always have done; paying the Possessors of such Property a valuable Consideration for the same. Of which Consideration, the Legislature are the only Judges.

If any Thing to the contrary of this were offer'd to the Annuitants, there might be some Cause of Complaint and Clamour: But as there is not, all your Appeals to the People are but so many artful and false Insinuations, to asperse and abuse the Legislature; and serve only to inflame and irritate the People against their Representatives, by one of the most impudent Libels that ever was publish'd.

Libels were us'd to come out in the dark; but yours have been publish'd openly, with all the Defiance imaginable, full of the highest Reflections. And every body knows, there can be no Reflection on the Legislature, and particularly upon those that are in Office under a Prince, without casting some Reflection on the Prince that employs them.

This Conduct of yours is of the highest Consequence in the World to the Government, and to every body: For if such mercenary Writers as you are, have the Liberty

thus to reflect on the Legislature, and whom else you please, no Man's Reputation can be safe.

It was formerly understood, That no Man had a Right to publish (by way of publick Intelligence) any Thing relating to the Publick Affairs, without License. And I believe the Judges have given it as their Opinions, That it is against the Law, to publish any Thing to Publick Knowledge that concerns the Government, without the King's immediate License. But you, we see, break thro' all Order and Decency; and publish what you please, and against whom you please, under the specious Pretence of Preserving Property and P———y Credit; and under the Character of an injur'd Knight, spare no Sort or Condition of Men; and for your Jest's sake, even sport with the *Litany* of our Holy Church, *Grant them Wisdom and Understanding.*

You forget that in the same Supplication there is a Petition for Grace: And you being now a Degree more Noble than when you wore the great Jack-boot, the Shoulder-belt, and broad Sword, are certainly within the Request of Grace: Besides that you want it infinitely.

And now we are in the *Litany*, I will put you in mind of some Supplications you seem to stand in need of:

That you may live diligently, after God's Commandments: That you may be brought back

back into the Way of Truth, with all those that have erred, and are deceiv'd : That you may be comforted in your Necessity and Tribulation : That your Slandering may be forgiven ; and that your Heart may be turn'd : That you may have true Repentance, and amend your Life according to God's Holy Word.—

Having now follow'd you almost to the End of your Book, I shall end this as you have done that, by giving you your just Character. Tho' I may not draw you so much to your Advantage, as you have done your self, I will impute what you have said, to your Modesty ; and must beg you to excuse the want of Beauty in the Character I shall draw for you, and suffer the Truth of it to make Amends for its Deformity.

I find by your own Confession, That your first Step into the World was as a private Gentleman of the Belt, under the unfortunate Duke of *Ormond*. Indeed he was unfortunate : And I believe the greatest of all his Misfortunes, if not all, were owing to such Animals, that he brought out of Want and Beggary, to taste of Affluence and Plenty.

The first Figure you made in the World, was at the Back of the late King *WILLIAM* the Third, of Ever-glorious Memory, against *Lewis* the Fourteenth. What a Pity it is that your Power and Vanity had not been equal.

equal. But this is all the Service you ever pretend to have done your Country in the Capacity of a Soldier.

You formerly indeed went by the Name of a Captain. Whether you ever were so or not, I will not say: But it is observable, that even in your own Character of your self, there appears no Reason of Promotion from a Trooper, unless it were that of Diverting your Superiors with your Ribaldry.

You never have been heard to own you were in one single Action; nor ever to have exerted your self amongst Men, but as a Buffoon.

I have now by me a kind of *Prologue* you made upon your self, soon after his Majesty's Happy Accession to the Throne. In that you tell us, That at first you were a Sort of Projector, or Gold-finder; but growing weary of blowing Coals, you turn'd your Thoughts towards Reforming of Youth, and indeed of the Age in general. In that Character you had some Merit: But the greatest Things you did at that Time, were owing to the Labours of more ingenious Men; which indeed you have own'd in some measure, in Favour of one Gentleman, whose Works were too well known, tho' his Modesty was too great to publish them himself: Yet as often as any Thing of his came abroad, the World knew that there was but that one Man that could be the Author of them. And as all the Assistance he gave you will soon be publish'd by it self, we shall see you stripp'd of your finest Plumes.

It

It is but too true, how great Concern you gave that Gentleman, by what you call Plunging your self into dangerous and irresistible Torrents, contrary to that great and good Man's Opinion.

What you here call Resolution in your self, will be deem'd little less than Impudence and Impiety, to have ever acted contrary to such a Man's Advice and Judgment. In that, indeed, you did what no other Man living would have done. Whether you would impute that to your Wisdom, or a natural Imperfection, I know not : But having thus broke loose, you appear'd soon as a profound Statesman. And while you gave your self that Character, you had the Modesty to give the Merit to your Scribbling of the great Skill and Watchfulness of the greatest Set of Men that ever liv'd in *England*. All the brave Stands made in the late Reign in both Houses of P———t, you tell us, without Flattery, were Owing to your *Lucubrations*.

And I suppose the same Vanity and Assurance leads you to believe that your Goose-quill is still very formidable. Tho' *Dunkirk* was to have been demolish'd by Treaty ; and no one Step was made to the contrary, but a Petition from the Inhabitants to the late Queen ; you, without any Regard to those Great Men in both Houses, of L—ds and C——ns, who stood firmly by the Protestant Succession, most impudently assume the Merit of the Demolition of that Place to your own Writings.

And

And since we are speaking of that Affair, I heartily wish that the Sluices of *Mardyke* had been as faithfully demolish'd as *Dunkirk* is. And I must do that Gentleman the Justice, who had the Command of that Place, and the Care of the Demolition of it, to say, That he executed his Commission with as much Fidelity, as ever was shewn in the Execution of any Commission whatsoever. And I heartily wish, that a Woman's unfatiable Revenge, for an involuntary Offence, had not forc'd a Man of so much Worth and Honour into Retirement.

I had almost forgot one great Attempt of yours; and that is, your skillful Endeavour of Converting his Holiness: Tho' he be a Bishop, yet as a Temporal Prince you might have spar'd him. But as Assurance has put you upon a Level with every body, even Princes are not to escape your Malice and Calumny. Your Modesty may live to see your most noted Services rewarded, and not be pitied.

And tho' you compare the Correcting of your Insolence to the Drowning of a Duck; believe me, you will be convinc'd, That it is no hard Matter for the youngest Politician living, to knock down a Goose when his Cackling grows offensive.

I cannot but be mov'd, to see you fall upon a poor Brother Author, and a Critick. You seem to slight him for your own Infirmities; only for being under a kind of Suspicion of Debt.

If

If he took too great a Liberty with your deceas'd Friend, it was a wicked Act, and carry'd with it its own Reward. But you, who have done the same, ought not to accuse him. His Crime was not quite so great as yours; for Mr. A——— was your Friend, Patron and Benefactor; and yet you have been so wicked as to say many ill-natur'd Things of him.

The Loss of that excellent Man, who is now with God, was generally lamented by every good Man; but you seem to rejoice at his Absence. Your Friend and Superior is not now in your Sight, in pain for what you say and do; it is very plain that you are now left to your self. Your own Writing and Judgment is now easily distinguish'd. You are now at liberty to be as abandoned as you please. You now can practise Ingratitude with great satisfaction. You now can get up to talk of Things you do not understand, abuse your Betters and Benefactors. This great and good Man being out of Sight, you can practice all Kinds of Wickednesses, without the least Remorse of Conscience. I'm sorry you should own your self so hardned now, that once were aw'd by his Presence; and that his Conversation and Example have not taught you a better Behaviour. Whether you owe this natural Impiety to your Father or Mother, or the Country you were born in, I cannot say. You cannot have learn'd it, it must be in your Nature; and being thus, deeply ingrafted in you, it is no wonder that you learn'd no more from Mr.

— — — — —'s Conversation, but the Words Humanity, Social Virtue, Honesty, Honour, Gratitude and Religion. You are very unhappy that you have only the Names of those great Virtues that your Friend practis'd, and was so great a Pattern of.

Your next Joy is that you have lost the best Woman that ever Man had. A great Satisfaction truly; She is now no more to pine at your Behaviour; you may now run riot as much as you please, you having nothing now to put you in mind of that Care which every honest Man owes his Family. Your Children are too young to know that you idly squander away your Substance that should be employ'd for their Support and Education. You may now take as many Houses and Lodgings as you please, encumber your self to support Vagabonds and vain Projectors, disoblige your Friends and Benefactors, expose your self every Day; your Wife cannot know it; your Children are too young to see how little care you take to preserve them from Want and Misery; your Creditors all unsatisfy'd: And when the Business of the Day is over, you have the Pleasure to own, that in the most August Assembly you have behav'd your self as impudently, as if you had been at a common Alehouse. I believe no Man living envies your Happiness, but I believe a great many pity you for the sake of those who are not capable of offending.

I cannot help taking notice of your Twelfth Theatre, which you conclude with the greatest

est Sorrow from the properest Concern that can affect any Man living. To convince the World of your great Affliction and Sincerity, your Postscript to your old Comrades of the Horse and Footguards is so melancholy, that no Body can doubt of your Grief from such Misfortune, as would have made any other Man serious. I forbear yet a while to mention so much of your Family and private Affairs, as will be necessary for me to do, in shewing of you as often as I hear you are out of Order. I shall not fail to deal more plainly with your Life and Conversation, in which I shall bring in the Conduct of your late Partners with yours, under the Title of a Dean and his Chapter. I should hardly mention those Vagabonds; but I find them more insolent than any People of that sort in any other Nation. And tho' they may encourage and commend your Behaviour; they are not to inform the Nation; they must be here treated as they are all the World over. They are but tumbling Monkeys for the Diversion of their Betters; and tho' their great Income may make them wanton, their just Rank is amongst the lowest of the Creation. In my next I shall consider your great Merit, what Services you have done your King and Country; how just you have been in your Dealings, and how grateful to your Benefactors, not forgetting your Oeconomy and Income. What Sums your Writings have produced; what Collections have been made for you; what Sums you have had from your Royal Master,

ster, as well as from private Persons; the Income of your Estate, and two profitable Employments; your Use and Abuse of every Thing; and the great Hardship you undergo in accepting of a profitable publick Employment, and refusing to act in it; which if your Betters do consider rightly of, they may happen to give it to a Person that will act and give Dispatch to publick Business, and not contemn the Authority of a House of C——s.

N. B. A Radnorshire Gentleman has under his Consideration your late Letter to the E——l of O——d, which he designs to compare with your former Favours to that noble L——d, his Brothers *Obadiah*, and *Brickduft*, and all his Friends. You are still consistent with your self, still the same Man, always in the Wrong.

F I N I S.

